

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In re: BKY 19-40658
Chapter 7
Scheherazade, Inc,

Debtor.

Nauni Manty, as chapter 7 Trustee Adv. No. 20-_____

Plaintiff,

v.

COMPLAINT

Chardonnay Diamonds LLC,

Defendant.

The plaintiff, Nauni Manty, as the chapter 7 trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Scheherazade, Inc, states and alleges as follows:

1. This complaint seeks avoidance and recovery under 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 550, and 551 against the defendant in the approximate amount of \$10,000.
2. The debtor filed a petition commencing this chapter 7 bankruptcy case on March 10, 2019.
3. This complaint is filed under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001(1) and this court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and 157(a) as an action arising in or related to a case under Title 11. The causes of action stated herein qualify as enumerated core claims under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(2)(A) and (F).
4. The trustee consents to the bankruptcy court's entry of final orders and judgment in this adversary proceeding.

5. As the appointed chapter 7 trustee, the plaintiff has standing to commence this adversary proceeding pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 550 and 551.

6. Upon information and belief, the defendant is a corporation organized under the laws of Illinois with a principal place of business at 1401 North Wieland Street, Unit M, Chicago, Illinois 60610 and has an address registered for service of process to David W. Inlander at 155 N. Wacker Dr., Ste 3850, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

7. The debtor's records reflect that the following checks were paid from the debtor's bank account to the defendant:

<u>Date Cleared</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 3, 2019	\$5,000
February 8, 2019	\$5,000
March 5, 2019	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total:	\$15,000

8. To the extent that there were additional transfers made to the defendant, the trustee reserves the right to supplement her request for recovery.

9. The trustee sent a demand letter to the defendant's attorney on March 31, 2020. The defendant did not respond and raised no defenses.

10. The trustee reviewed the defendant's proof of claim and invoices sent to the debtor within the 90-day preference period. It appears the defendant has a subsequent new value defense of \$5,000, related to jewelry it sent to the debtor after the subject payments. The trustee is unaware of any other defenses that the defendant could raise under 11 U.S.C. § 547(c) and has no documents in her possession that would establish another defense.

11. On and before the dates it received payments from the debtor, the defendant was a creditor of the debtor, and held a claim and a debt against the debtor arising from the defendant's

jewelry sold by the debtor. Payments to the defendant by the debtor were made to pay the claim and debt owed to the defendant.

12. According to the debtor's records, the claims register, and the petition, the debtor was not paying all of its bills as they came due before, during, and after the timeframe of the transfers. This includes, but is not limited to, at least 171 claims that have been filed in the bankruptcy of the debtor, which claims total at least \$2,349,015.95.

13. Upon information and belief, based on the value of the debtor's assets and liabilities in the petition and schedules, the debtor's liabilities exceeded the value of its assets when the transfers were made.

14. Unsecured creditors of the debtor are not expected to recover 100% of their claims in this bankruptcy case. Again, claims total approximately \$2,349,015. Meanwhile, the trustee has cash in the amount of \$552,979 in the estate. The trustee anticipates that the remaining assets to be administered will be under \$100,000. The payments to the defendant resulted in a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the debt that the debtor owed to the defendant, which is a better result than defendant would have realized as part of a chapter 7 distribution had the payments not been made.

Count I: Avoidance of Payments as Avoidable Preferences Under § 547(b)

15. All paragraphs above are incorporated herein by reference.

16. Section 547(b) of the bankruptcy code permits avoidance of a transfer of: (1) the debtor's interest in property; (2) to or for the benefit of a creditor; (3) for or on account of an antecedent debt owed to the debtor before the transfer was made; (4) made while the debtor is insolvent; (5) made within 90 days before the bankruptcy filing or up to one year before the bankruptcy filing if the creditor is an insider; (6) that enabled the creditor to receive more than it

would have had the transfer not been made and if the creditor received an ordinary distribution as a creditor in the debtor's chapter 7 bankruptcy.

17. The payments were transfers of the debtor's interest in property.

18. Before and at the time of the payments, the defendant was a creditor of the debtor.

19. The payments were made on account of antecedent debt owed by the debtor to the defendant, in connection with jewelry sold to the debtor.

20. The payments occurred within 90 days before the debtor's bankruptcy filing.

21. The debtor was insolvent at the time of the payments.

22. The payments enabled the defendant to receive more than it would have received if the payments had not been made and if the defendant received payment of such debt in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case.

23. Therefore, the payments are avoidable as preferential transfers under 11 U.S.C. § 547 and should be avoided.

Count II: Preservation and Recovery of Transfers, or Money Judgment Against the Defendant under §§ 550 and 551

24. All paragraphs above are incorporated herein by reference.

25. Section 550(a) of the bankruptcy code states, "to the extent that a transfer is avoided under section 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, 553(b), or 724(a) of this title, the trustee may recover, for the benefit of the estate, the property transferred, or if the court so orders, the value of the property, from (1) the initial transferee of such transfer or the entity for whose benefit such transfer was made; or (2) any immediate or mediate transferee of such initial transferee."

26. Section 551 of the bankruptcy code provides that "any transfer avoided under section...547...of this title...is preserved for the benefit of the estate."

27. The defendant received the transfers by check from the debtor's bank account and is liable as an initial transferee to the trustee in the amount of \$10,000.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, Nauni Manty, prays for judgment against the defendant as follows:

- (a) For the avoidance and recovery of the money transfers in the minimum amount of the \$10,000 received by the defendant;
- (b) For the trustee's costs and disbursements herein;
- (c) For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law; and
- (d) For such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.

Dated: June 3, 2020

MANTY & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

/e/ Mary F. Sieling

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VERIFICATION

I, Nauni Manty, trustee and plaintiff named in the complaint, declare under penalty of perjury that the facts contained in the foregoing complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated: June 3, 2020



Nauni Manty, Trustee